Myth ADVENTURES!™

WARP GRAPHICS 7

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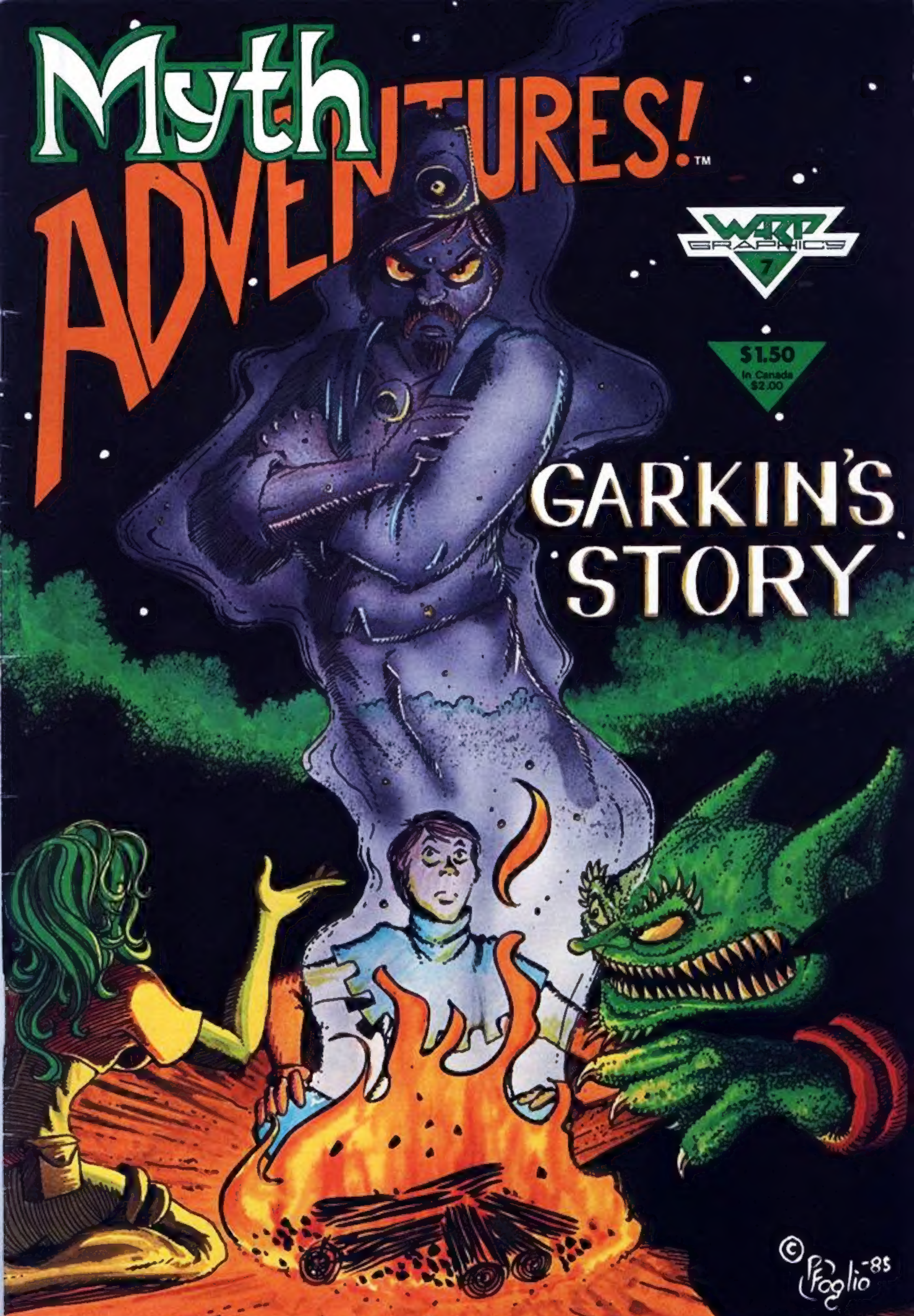
GARKIN'S STORY



WARP WORDS

NOTES FROM THE PUBLISHER

If you read the "Warp Words" in the current issue (#7) of *A Distant Soil*, you caught the first installment of The Neverending Editorial. Since I only have a given amount of space per issue in which to air whatever is on my mind at the time, I've decided to treat these pages as pieces of an ongoing mega-screed.

I mentioned last time I had some steam to let off regarding Overstreet's *The Comic Book Price Guide*, an annual volume now in its 15th year. As an arbiter of the monetary worth of comic books it has received its share of criticism — as I suspect any such guide must — but as a reference work it is valuable since it lists nearly every issue of

every comic book published in the United States (and many from Canada) since 1900. Nearly. Guess which company's comics — and particularly its ground-breaking title having to do with some elves on a quest — are conspicuously absent from the *Guide?*

This omission was understandable a few years back when Robert Overstreet, the *Guide*'s creator and publisher, listed *only* color comics that were distributed on the newsstands (as opposed to through the direct sale shops). But then the Pacific Comics titles began to appear in the listing; I thought, OK, those are still color comics. Then Capital Comics' *Nexus* showed up — and that was a magazine-sized, black-and-white title just like *Elfquest* (and the rest of the WaRP line, until very recently). Now, just about every independent comics title has been given its own form of "legitimacy" by inclusion in the *Guide*, except for those done by WaRP Graphics. When pressed for a reason, Mr. Overstreet said that, at bottom, he just didn't look at *Elfquest* and WaRP's other output as "real comic books." Oh.

I hope a lot of you out there disagree with that. I hope you'll write — and get the owners of your local comics shops to write as well — to us here at WaRP. We've been fighting this for the last three years, and we'd really appreciate your help. See you in 60!

Richard

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ANY LUCK?

NOPE. I SIFTED THROUGH WHAT'S LEFT OF **FRUMPLE'S** SHOP AND **EVERYTHING'S** GONE. HE'S HIT THE ROAD, ALL RIGHT.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE LOCALS DIDN'T BURN HIM OUT?

WOULD I LET YOU DISGUISE **ME** AS **FRUMPLE** IF THEY HAD? THINK IT OUT, KID: IF THE LOCALS HIT HIM, HE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TIME TO CLEAN THE PLACE OUT SO THOROUGHLY — OUR GEAR, THE WAR UNICORN, EVEN THAT LOUSY SWORD OF **GARKIN'S**.

EVEN THAT?

IT WAS THAT BAD?

THE THING CAN'T CUT BUTTER UNLESS YOU DROP A BRICK ON IT. **FRUMPLE** MUST FIGURE ON FINDING SOME IDIOT TO SELL IT TO, LIKE WE DID. AND SPEAKING OF IDIOTS, HAVE YOU FOUND OURS?

YEAH, I THINK SO. GIVE ME A HAND.

DUMP HERE

Where's the Pool?

"Ah Yes, I Remember It Well"

IT SURE WAS A GOOD IDEA TO BURY HIM FOR SAFE-KEEPING.

WELL, HE DOESN'T NEED TO BREATHE, AND IT KEEPS HIM SAFE FROM PIGEONS.

AK

ek

umph!

=umph=

SO THAT'S **QUIGLEY.**

YUP.

urk

ag

KINDA CUTE, TOO.

DON'T GET ANY -URK- IDEAS. THIS BOZO'S A DEMON HUNTER.

1k

OH TERRIFIC. SO WHY ARE WE DIGGING HIM UP?

HUFF - HUFF - I FIGURE WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET - HUFF - AGAINST **ISSTVAN.**

AND HE'S BIG - URK-

-AND STRONG - AK-

-GOOD FIGHTER - WHUP-

-AND **STUPID.**

OH REALLY? THINK HE'LL BE ANY TROUBLE?

TROUBLE? **HA!**

AAHZ!

KRUMP

... OF **COURSE** HE'LL BE TROUBLE.

THAT AFTERNOON...

... LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT ALL THIS. THOSE TWO DEMONS TURNED ME TO STONE, AND THEN STOLE MY MAGIK SWORD AND PENDANT?

RIGHT. AND JUST AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO CHISEL THEIR NAMES INTO YOUR FOREHEAD, WE SHOWED UP AND CHASED THEM AWAY — AFTER A PITCHED BATTLE, OF COURSE.

AND YOU SAY THEY BEWITCHED MY WAR UNICORN?

I'M AFRAID SO. A TOTAL MAGIK LOBOTOMY, AND ATTACHED TO MY SQUIRE TO BOOT.

HE NEVER ***DID*** MAKE THAT NOISE BEFORE.

WE WERE GOING TO PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY...

GLEEP!

SO I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BUY HIM FROM YOU!

MY HEART!

BUY HIM?

RIGHT — HE'S NO GOOD TO YOU ANY-MORE, AND SINCE WE CAME BACK TOO LATE TO PREVENT IT...

NO! YOU CANNOT ***BUY*** HIM!

IF NOT FOR YOU, BOTH HE AND I WOULD BE DEAD. I ***GIVE*** HIM TO YOU, AS A GIFT.

BUT... BUT...

THE MATTER IS CLOSED. TREAT HIM WELL — HE WAS A GOOD ANIMAL.

WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO?!

I WAS THINKING. I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM. I WANT TO GIVE HIM SOME-THING.

WELL, DON'T GIVE HIM ANY MORE THOUGHT. YOU DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TO SPARE.

NOW, WHO IS THE YOUNG LADY?

THIS IS **TANANDA**. IF THERE IS ANYONE YOU SHOULD THANK, IT'S HER.

CHARMED.

SHE'S A WITCH.

A WITCH!

THAT'S RIGHT, SUGAR.

SHE'S DEDICATED HER ARTS TO SUPPORTING OUR WAR ON DEMONS — SHE'S THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING **MY** CURSE.

YES, I NOTICED...

BUT... A WITCH...

HER POWERS RESTORED **YOU** TO FLESH AND BLOOD.

YOU'LL FIND, **QUIGLEY**, WHEN YOU'VE FOUGHT DEMONS AS LONG AS I HAVE, IT'S SOMETIMES USEFUL TO USE THE DEMONS' OWN WEAPONS.

FORGIVE ME, MILADY. I'VE... HAD SOME BAD EXPERIENCES WITH DEMONS LATELY.

AND FRANKLY, I FIND YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HER DEPLORABLE.

WELL, WE'LL TRY AND FIX THAT, SUGAR. AND CALL ME **TANDA**.

AAHZ, GIVE HIM BACK HIS SWORD.

HUH? YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

NO JOKE. IT'S BAD ENOUGH STRINGING HIM ALONG AS IT IS. EITHER YOU GIVE HIM BACK HIS SWORD, OR YOU WORK YOUR OWN MAGIK. YOUR CHOICE. GET ME?

...BUT—!

AAHZ, HELP ME CONVINCE ***QUIGLEY*** TO JOIN US.

WOULD THAT I COULD, SWEET LADY, BUT THANKS TO THOSE DEMONS I AM PENNILESS, AFOOT, AND WEAPONLESS.

THEN **AAHZ** HAS SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.

OH?

TELL HIM.

WE... WE'RE GONNA GI... WE'RE GONNA ***GI***... ***GI***... ***GI***... ?choke?... ***GI***...

WE'RE GONNA ***GIVE*** YOU BACK YOUR SWORD.

GI...!

WHAT?! BUT THIS IS FRIENDSHIP INDEED! HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?

DON'T MENTION IT. IT'S THE ***LEAST*** MASTER **AAHZ** CAN DO.

BELIEVE ME.

WHY NOW I CAN ***GLADLY*** ASSIST YOU! WITH A GOOD WEAPON AND TRUE COMRADES, WHAT MORE COULD A WARRIOR ASK FOR?

MONEY!

OH, **AAHZ**, YOU'RE SUCH A KIDDER!

NG..!

DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE MISSION IS?

OH, YES. OF COURSE. SILLY ME. I TEND TO GET OVERENTHUSIASTIC SOMETIMES. PRAY TELL.

KRICK!

IT'S SIMPLE, ACTUALLY. WE'RE GOING AFTER **ISSTVAN.**

ISSTVAN?! YOU MEAN THAT **HARMLESS** OLD INNKEEPER?

ACTUALLY, **MASTER AAHZ** CAN EXPLAIN IT BETTER THAN I.

HARMLESS? HA!! QUIGLEY, OLD SPORT, AS ONE DEMON HUNTER TO ANOTHER, YOU'VE GOT A **LOT** TO LEARN.

I GOT TURNED TO STONE BECAUSE I PUT MY FAITH IN A "MAGIK SWORD" THAT WOULDN'T STOP A BOILED VEGETABLE!!

I DO RATHER WELL...

YOU DO? THAT WHY YOU GOT TURNED TO STONE?

OH, WELL, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET **TECHNICAL...**

BUT THE MAN SENT ME **OUT** FOR DEMONS!

...AND YOU ATTACKED **US!** WHY, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE WAS A DEMON HIMSELF!

THINK **AAHZ'LL** BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM?

ARE YOU KIDDING? GIVE HIM A WEEK AND HE'LL HAVE **QUIGLEY** CONVINCED THAT **QUIGLEY'S** A DEMON.

TWO FOOTSORE WEEKS LATER...

MY FRIENDS, I BELIEVE THAT ISSTVAN'S INN LIES JUST OVER THAT RIDGE.

THEN THE RIDGE LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO CAMP FOR THE NIGHT.

FINE. I'LL GO KILL SUPPER.

SIGH... YOU KNOW, FELLOWS ... THAT TANANDA IS TRULY WONDERFUL. HAVE I MENTIONED THAT TO YOU?

NOT LATELY.

HAVE YOU NOTICED.. HER EYES ARE LIKE...

...JEWELS

ARRIP!!

CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP CHOP

WHY YES! AND HER HAIR... IT'S LIKE...

...SILK

WHY... YES. UM.. HAVE I MENTIONED THIS BEFORE?

...PEARLS

I GUESS I HAVE.

OKAY, SQUIRE, OFF TO SLEEP. BIG DAY TOMORROW.

NOT THIS TIME.

HOW'S THAT?

AAHZ, YOU AND **TANANDA** HAVE BEEN DUCKING MY QUESTIONS FOR WEEKS.

YES WE DO, **AAHZ**. TELL HIM WHAT HAPPENED TO **GARKIN**.

KID, I DON'T KNOW WHAT...

YOU KNOW A STORY ABOUT THE **GREAT GARKIN**? I'D LOVE TO HEAR THAT!

SURE, DARLIN'...

... AND HERE'S A DRINK TO GET YOU ALL RELAXED.

WHY, THANK YOU, SWEET LADY.

YOU CAN'T GET MORE RELAXED THAN **THAT**.

KA-CHUMF!

NOW, THIS TOOK PLACE ALMOST 80 YEARS AGO.

IT STARTED RATHER SIMPLY...

"GARKIN AND I WERE TOURING THE LESSER DIMENSIONS WITH A FELLOW WIZARD, SOLA REYDKYN, SAMPLING VARIOUS – ah – CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.

WE WERE IN THE PROCESS OF RATING "MAD DOG LITE."

WELL GUYS, I GOTTA GO. I GOT A HOT DATE THE NEXT DIMENSION OVER!

SO LONG, TOOTS!

HOLD IT! WAIT!! IT'S HER TURN TO BUY!

HEY, SO CATCH ME NEXT TIME!

FRATZ!

WE DEDUCED FROM WHAT HAPPENED THAT SOMETHING WAS AWRY.

SSSSSSSS...

WHAT THE... THERE'S SOME SORT OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL BARRIER UP. TRY TO TRAVEL THROUGH IT AND YOU FRY.

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, AAHZ...

...SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE AFFECTING THE FORCE LINES IN THIS VICINITY. ALMOST AS IF THEY WERE BEING INTERFERED WITH, SOMEHOW.

PRECISELY! IT'S REGRETFUL YOUR FRIEND WAS LOST, BUT WE KNEW NOTHING OF YOUR EXISTENCE UNTIL YOU UTILIZED MAGIK YOURSELVES.

WHO ARE YOU?

I WILL BRING YOU TO US. PREPARE YOURSELVES.

"AND THAT WAS OUR INTRODUCTION TO **HESSELWHITE** THE WIZARD, **PIERRE** THE WEREWOLF, **GUS** THE GARGOYLE, THE **LAW MACHINE**, AND **TANANDA** HERE."

"WE WERE ALL DIMENSION TRAVELLERS WHO HAD DISCOVERED, THROUGH THE FATALITIES OF OTHERS, THAT THE BARRIER WAS UP. **HESSELWHITE** HAD GATHERED US TOGETHER."

NICE TRIP!

WE DID WHAT WE COULD. AS FAR AS I CAN DETERMINE, WE ARE THE ONLY DEMONS LEFT IN THIS DIMENSION. YOUR ADDITION TO OUR GROUP GIVES ME HOPE.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US WHAT'S HAPPENING.

THIS I CAN ELUCIDATE.

"AND TELL US IT DID, OF **ISSTVAN'S** DRAINING AND STRIPPING AN ENTIRE DIMENSION OF IT'S MAGIK. HOW HE PLANNED TO EVENTUALLY ABSORB THE POWER FROM **ALL** OF THEM..."

"...LEAVING A TRAIL OF DESTRUCTION AND OUT-OF-WORK MAGICIANS BEHIND HIM."

The Amazing Rope Trick!

"IT EXPLAINED THAT THE DIMENSION HAD BEEN SEALED OFF TO ALL TRAVEL, COMING OR GOING."

"AS A RESULT, WE WERE ON OUR OWN."

The GREAT ☆☆ BENSON

"EVEN AS WE SPOKE, **ISSTVAN** WAS SIPHONING OFF THE ENERGIES OF THIS DIMENSION, WHICH GAVE US A DEFINITE TIME LIMIT WE HAD TO BEAT."

SO WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT **ISSTVAN**?

EXTREMELY POWERFUL, THOROUGHLY CRAZY.

DO WE KNOW WHERE HE IS?

WE DO. HE IS MAKING NO EFFORT TO CONCEAL HIS WHEREABOUTS.

THEREFORE, WE WILL GO TO HIM AND BATTLE HIM ON HIS CHOSEN BATTLEGROUND

AND IF WE DON'T FIGHT HIM? MAKE HIM COME TO US?

HE HAS NO NEED TO COME TO US. ALL HE DESIRES IS THIS DIMENSION'S MAGIK.

AND IF HE GETS IT?

MAGICIANS WHO USE THE FORCE LINES WILL BE RENDERED HELPLESS. MAGIKAL CREATURES WILL CEASE TO EXIST. NON-MAGIKAL BEINGS SUCH AS **TANANDA** AND MYSELF WILL BE AT **ISSTVAN'S** MERCY.

YOU'RE NOT MAGIKAL?!

NO. I AM PURELY A PRODUCT OF TECHNOLOGY.

WHAT DIMENSION IS CAPABLE OF...

DO NOT PRESUME ON OUR LIMITED AQUAINTANCE, PERVECT.

...GOT IT.

"I HAVEN'T ENCOUNTERED A **LAW MACHINE** BEFORE OR SINCE... WHICH IS FINE BY ME."

"**AAHZ** MAY REMEMBER THE **LAW MACHINE**, BUT I REMEMBER **GARKIN**. HE WAS MAGNIFICENT."

"FROM A STANDING START HE HAD A PLAN DESIGNED AND PREPERATIONS BEGUN WITHIN HOURS."

"HE WORKED US TILL WE DROPPED, AND EVEN THEN HE DIDN'T SLEEP. I DIDN'T KNOW ANY MAGIK, BUT I THOUGHT I COULD GIVE HIM A FEW HOURS OF RELAXATION AND PEACE."

"THAT WAS HOW **WE** STARTED."

dosé

"FINALLY, WE WERE READY. WE ATTACKED."

"WE HAD NO CHOICE"

"WHILE THE MAGICIANS GOT READY, THE REST OF US WERE PLACED AT SET POINTS AROUND ISSTVAN'S CASTLE."

"WE'D EACH BEEN GIVEN A TALISMAN DESIGNED TO WEAKEN ISSTVAN'S POWER. ALL THE MAGICIANS HAD TO DO WAS CALL UP SOMETHING BIG ENOUGH TO HELP."

"THEY HIT THE JACKPOT."

"APPARENTLY, ISSTVAN THOUGHT SO TOO."

SWIP

POP!

"THAT BIG SUCKER NEVER HAD A CHANCE."

RA'S AL

"WE DID SLIGHTLY BETTER."

NOW WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?

NOW HE'S MAD.

WAIT! CAN YOU FEEL...?

HIS WARDS ARE DOWN!

WELL, THAT MAKES TWO OF US.

NOW!! ATTACK NOW!

GARKIN, WHAT ARE... GARKIN!?!

GARKIN!!

THE WARDS ARE DOWN.

CHOF!

THAT SMARTS.

THUP!

"WHAT HAD HAPPENED? WE DIDN'T KNOW. THE BATTLE HAD BEEN HALTED..."

"THE WARDS WERE BACK UP..."

"AND **GARKIN** WAS STILL INSIDE."

guince

"THE ENERGY DRAIN STOPPED AS *ISSTVAN* FOCUSED HIS ATTENTION ON *GARKIN*. WE FOUND OUT LATER WHAT WENT ON

WELL, *WELL*, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

OBVIOUSLY YOU'VE COME FOR TEA...

ZOP!

I SO RARELY GET SOCIAL VISITORS THESE DAYS..

ZING

ZOING

ZAT!

PLEASE *DO* SIT DOWN.

AHHH, I SEE YOU'VE FOUND THE COMFY CHAIR!

I REALLY THINK A GOOD CUP OF TEA MAKES THINGS *SO* CIVILIZED, DONT YOU? ONE LUMP OR TWO?

I *SAID*, ONE LUMP OR TWO?

UH... NONE! I DONT TAKE SUGAR.

WHO SAID ANY-THING ABOUT *SUGAR*?

GIVE HIM TWO.

SMAK BONK!

FEELING BETTER?

OH, *GOOD*. NOW LET'S TALK.

SO TELL ME: WHY ARE YOU PEOPLE SO DETERMINED TO STOP ME?

BECAUSE YOU'RE MAD.

MAD? YOU THINK I'M MAD?

JUST BECAUSE I'M ABOUT TO CONTROL MORE POWER THAN ANY MAGICIAN HAS EVER KNOWN? OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC, PERHAPS, BUT HARDLY MAD.

BUT WHAT WILL YOU **DO** WITH ALL THAT POWER?

DO YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S EVER BOTHERED TO ASK? AND BECAUSE YOU'RE SO THOUGHTFUL, I'LL TELL YOU

NOTHING

AK!

ZOTZ!

WHAT?

MIND-NUMBING IN ITS SIMPLICITY, ISN'T IT? YOU SEE, FOR ME, THE THRILL IS IN THE PERFORMANCE. SAVE A WORLD, DESTROY A WORLD... WHO CARES? BUT THE ACTUAL MANIPULATION OF THE ENERGIES REQUIRED... AH, NOW ***THAT'S*** ENTERTAINMENT!

BUT THAT'S... INHUMAN.

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU ***COULD*** LOOK AT IT THAT WAY... I PREFER TO THINK THAT PEOPLE HAVE LOST THE ABILITY TO CREATE THEIR OWN AMUSEMENT.

BUT I LIKE YOU, SO I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT AMUSEMENT, WON'T I?

UM... DON'T PUT YOURSELF TO ANY TROUBLE ON ***MY*** PART

OH, NO TROUBLE, DEAR BOY. NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

"A WEEK PASSED"

"SLOWLY"

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL... IT'S

GOOD MORNING! HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP? TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS, BUT WHEN YOU PUT PEOPLE IN A DUNGEON, THEY FEEL SO DISAPPOINTED IF THEY'RE NOT ACTUALLY TORTURED..!

YOU SCUM!

SEE? NOW THAT'S THE PROBLEM RIGHT THERE. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME. THE REAL ME, THE ISSTVAN WHO LIKES FLOWERS AND PUPPY DOGS..

YOU LIKE...?

...BAKED TOGETHER AT 375 DEGREES WITH A LITTLE GARLIC AND A FEW LEMON SLICES.

I HAD TO ASK.

WKP Gramophones

SO I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND.

HOW?

OH, IT'S QUITE ELEMENTARY, REALLY. WHENEVER YOU PERFORM MAGIK, YOU'LL WANT TO PERFORM MORE MAGIK, WHICH WILL TAKE MORE POWER, WHICH WILL CAUSE YOU TO EXPEND MORE MAGIK, WHICH WILL TAKE... BUT YOU GET THE IDEA.

I GOT THE IDEA FROM A PYRAMID LAND SCHEME I SAW IN FLORIDA

NOW, I ADMIT THAT THE EFFECTS OF THIS LITTLE CIRCUIT ARE QUITE HIDEOUS — FRIENDS DYING, CITIES DESTROYED, THE PRICE OF STAMPS GOING UP, AND ALL BECAUSE OF YOU...

PLEASE...

?

...BUT IT FEELS SO GOOD, YOU DON'T CARE. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.

WAAAAH!!

WHOOONN

"THAT WAS WHEN WE BROKE THROUGH ISSTVAN'S DEFENSES."

I HAVE HIM

WELL! SOME MORE FOR TEA!

SILLY PEOPLE, YOUR TINY MAGIKAL TOYS CAN'T HARM ME. I CAN TAKE AWAY THEIR POWERS JUST LIKE THAT.

SEE? IT'S A JOKE.

KRZZZ

OH, SO YOU HEARD THAT ONE, DID YOU?

ALL RIGHT, THE JOLLIES ARE OVER. YOU'RE ALL A BUNCH OF COFFEE DRINKERS. NO TEA FOR YOU.

NOTHING FANCY. JUST DROP DEAD.

NOW WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

?

AHH. ISSTVAN. YOU WERE SO RIGHT. IT *DOES* FEEL GOOD. I DO WANT MORE, AND LUCKY ME...

...YOU'VE GOT SO VERY, VERY MUCH.

whoops!

A-HEH! WHY, YOU'RE DRAINING **MY** POWER. YES, OF COURSE, I GAVE YOU THE ABILITY TO DRAIN ***ANYTHING***. SILLY MIS-CALCULATION ON MY PART, WHAT?

HELP.

STOP HIM.

HE'S KILLING ME.

WHY SHOULD WE? SEEMS LIKE HE'S EARNED THE RIGHT.

I'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU A GOOD ANSWER.

THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION.

I DRAIN DIMENSIONS BECAUSE I WANT TO. ***HE*** CAN NO LONGER CONTROL HIMSELF.

ONCE HE FINISHES ME, HE'LL START ON YOU, AND THEN GO ON TO OTHER DIMENSIONS.. BUT HE'LL NEVER STOP.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ***GARKIN?***

SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO ME

"SO WE TURNED ON *GARKIN*. ONCE AGAIN, WE HAD NO CHOICE."

"WE WERE LUCKY. THOUGH HE HAD POWER, HE HADN'T YET LEARNED HOW TO USE IT."

"HE WENT DOWN."

"IN THE CONFUSION, A NEARLY-DEAD *ISSTVAN* FRANTICALLY LOWERED THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS..."

HOLD IT!

SORRY, GOTTA GO, KIDS ON THE STOVE!

PLOONK!!

"AND ESCAPED."

"WE MANAGED TO UNDO PART OF **ISSTVAN'S** SPELL— AT LEAST ENOUGH TO BRING BACK THE RATIONAL **GARKIN**. BUT..."

... THE SPELL IS VERY WELL CRAFTED AND IT IS NOT WITHIN OUR POWERS TO REMOVE ALL OF IT.

GARKIN... YOU **MUST** NOT PERFORM MAJOR THAUMATURGY EVER AGAIN. TO DO SO WOULD TRIGGER **ISSTVAN'S** FEEDBACK LOOP, AND THE NEXT TIME WE MIGHT NOT BE SO LUCKY.

I AM TRULY SORRY.

"HARD NEWS TO TAKE, IF YOU'RE A MAGICIAN."

"WE TRIED TO FIND A CURE. WE FAILED. **GARKIN** TRIED TO LIVE AS HE HAD BEFORE, BUT IT WAS UNBEARABLE."

"THE UNKNOWING SOUGHT THE **GREAT GARKIN** WITH PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN CHILD'S PLAY, BEFORE..."

"AND THOSE WHO DID KNOW TREATED HIM AS THOUGH HE WERE A HELPLESS CRIPPLE."

"I TOLD YOU HOW HE CRACKED, AND FINALLY FLED TO KLAH, TO LIVE OUT HIS DAYS WITHOUT MAGIK."

"AND THEN **YOU** CAME ALONG, **SKEEVE**."

TAKING YOU IN, THAT'S ONE THING. BUT TO ACTUALLY TRY TO TEACH YOU MAGIK..! HE MUST'VE SEEN SOMETHING IN YOU... I SUSPECT YOU'VE GOT ONE HELL OF AN AURA. BUT WHATEVER THE REASON, HE MUST'VE FIGURED THAT YOU WERE WORTH TAKING A RISK FOR.

I THINK HE WAS RIGHT.

Z

Z

LUCK.

WHAT'S THAT?

YOU WON THROUGH ***LUCK***. IT WAS SHEER STUPIDITY ON ***ISSTVAN'S*** PART THAT HE CURSED ***GARKIN*** AND DIDN'T THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES. HE WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE TWICE.

COME TO THINK OF IT, WE DON'T EVEN ***HAVE*** A PLAN READY FOR TOMORROW, JUST SOME MYSTERIOUS "SOMETHING" THAT ***AAHZ*** KEEPS MUTTERING ABOUT. PARDON ME IF I SEEM A LITTLE CONFUSED AS I WANDER UP TO ***ISSTVAN*** TOMORROW!

AH, BUT THAT'S HOW WE'RE GONNA ***BEAT*** HIM!

I THINK I'M LOST.

WE'RE GONNA CONFUSE HIM! THINK ABOUT IT — WE'RE GOING IN WITH A MAJOR MAGICIAN — ME. AH, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY POWERS! HOWEVER, I'VE GOT AN APPRENTICE WHO **DOES**!

THE DEMON HUNTER THAT **ISSTVAN** SENT OUT TO KILL US, IS COMING BACK **WITH** US TO HELP KILL **HIM.**

WE'VE GOT A DRAGON THAT LOOKS LIKE A UNICORN, AND AN ASSASSIN WHO'S ACTUALLY A PART-TIME MAGICIAN

SO HE'LL BE ATTACKED BY A SWORDSMAN HE THINKS HE CONTROLS, MAGIKALLY ATTACKED BY TWO PEOPLE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY MAGIKAL ABILITY, AND GUARDING HIMSELF AGAINST **MY** MAGIK WHEN I DON'T **HAVE** ANY!

AND THE KICKER IS THAT OUR **SECRET WEAPON** ISN'T EVEN MAGIKAL! SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF **THAT**?!

I THINK I'M **REALLY** LOST.

SEE? IT'LL WORK LIKE A CHARM.

NOW GO TO SLEEP.

OKAY. NOW HERE'S THE PLAN. **QUIGLEY** AND I WILL STROLL IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. THIS SHOULD COVER **TANANDA'S** COMING IN THROUGH ONE OF THE SECOND STORY WINDOWS. **SKEEVE** STAYS HERE. RIGHT, **SKEEVE?**

YES, **MASTER AAHZ.**

LET'S GO.

THEY'RE OUT OF SIGHT.

WHAT'S WITH THIS "**SKEEVE** STAYS HERE" NONSENSE? WHY DON'T WE JUST **TELL QUIGLEY** I'M A MAGICIAN? HE DOESN'T MIND YOU BEING A WITCH!

QUIGLEY PUTS UP WITH ME FOR... LET'S CALL THEM AESTHETIC REASONS. THERE'LL BE TIME TO EDUCATE HIM LATER, IF I FEEL LIKE TAKING THE TIME.

LET'S GET MOVING.

HO HO BOYS, DRINK UP! THIS ROUND'S ON OL' ISSTVAN!

SHHHHH..!

INNKEEPER! TWO FLAGONS OF YOUR BEST WINE!

WELL! COME IN, GENTS! BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

YOU HAVE? I DO NOT LIKE...

CALM... CALM...

OF COURSE! YOU CAUGHT US CELEBRATING MY CLOSING A DEAL WITH MY NEW PURCHASING AGENT!

HE'S TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU!

HI GUYS! SO HOW WAS THE OLD HOME TOWN?

BROCKHURST, DID I EVER SHOW YOU THAT METHOD OF KILLING A MAN WITH A PRETZEL?

ACTUALLY, NO, **HIGGINS.** BUT IT DOES SOUND FASCINATING.

THE TWO DEMONS WHO ROBBED ME! AND WHO'S THAT WITH THEM? YOUR BROTHER?

JUST KEEP CALM, THAT'S ALL... KEEP CALM...

SLAM

BANG!

KITCHEN

WHUMP!

WHAP!

I'M GLAD YOU'VE DECIDED TO STAY— WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ***SUCH*** FUN TODAY!

WOULD YOU CARE FOR SOME TEA?

NEXT ISSUE:
KOSTVAN LISTENS TO REASON
and
PIGS FLY
(would we lie to you?)

Myth PRINTS

Dear Phil,

Hi Hi Hi

Sincerely,

Edward Bornstein
Praetor
Unauthorized Underground
Winslow Guerilla
Fan Club-in-Exile

Well, the wait was worth it. When we got ***Mythadventures*** #5 in at our shop, all work stopped while I sat down and read it — twice! I was nearly convulsed with laughter throughout the issue; it certainly was a pleasant break from finals week.

I think I spotted most of the in-jokes. It does take a sharp eye, though, not to mention knowing what the various Mythadventurers look like. Have you considered running "A Guide to the Inside Jokes" for those people who may not know that the two people selling the mini-dragon are Phil and Dixie from Mr. Foglio's strip in *The Dragon*, for example? On second thought, what fun would *that* be? Part of the fun of reading ***Myth*** is spotting said references!

Kevin Standlee
Sutter CA

All right, all you out there who've been chivvying us for a Mythadventures Fan Club — now you know. Now you can chivvy Mr. Standlee and his assorted cronies instead, for 'tis they who are in charge of said Club. From one who's been doing this madness for a bunch of years now, all I can say is, "Have fun, guys!" Hee hee.

About Sharon Reine's letter (***Mythadventures*** #5): she has a good point about staying with Bob Asprin's original plot. Conversely, you have a good point about adding whatever you feel is humorous (and allowed by Bob) without fear of being misinterpreted. I think to avoid any *ahem* "unpleasantness" in the future, it might be an idea to use words and idiomatic phrases from other languages (in their proper context) as well as Yiddish. Ghod knows the English language itself is a veritable potpourri of Latin-based, Asiatic, European, and other languages. It's a wonder anyone understands what we say!

Laura Craig
Elgin IL

C'est bien. Da. Si. Ja. Nemine dissentiente.
Okay. Now we can go out and offend sentient beings all over the known dimensions.

Hello! Winslow. Winslow Winslow Winslow. More Winslow. I want: Winslow every issue — Winslow limited series — Winslow bi-monthly — Winslow in color — Winslow syndicated comic strip! Winslow Saturday morning cartoon show! Inflatable Winslow! All-cotton Winslow! Winslow Fan Club! Winslow role-playing game! However, I'll settle for another Winslow back-up feature for now.

Martin Crim
Durham NC

I don't know . . . How does one mess with perfection? Remind me some day — if the inducement is right, I'll tell you the story of how Winslow came to be a back-up in the first place.

I think I have finally learned my lesson on trying to figure out what Foglio is going to do next. I thought I would know what Tananda would look like, but *nooooo*! If I had had the slightest idea of her real appearance, I would have blackmailed my comics shop owner for a sooner release date! She's fantastic! Give Phil my best! (growf)

Looking through issue #5 I noticed Foglio's characters from *Dragon*'s old "What's New?" and I was (growf) wondering what the name of that little dragon was. Seeing him pop up (growf) all over the place kinda got me interested.

And I notice that you are coming out bi-monthly! Thank you, sirs, thank you! I bow to your most excellent idea (growf).

How did you ever get Bob and Phil and company to agree to that?

Michael Moronez
Fort Walton Beach FL

Made them an offer they could refuse, and then got several large relatives and friends to counsel them not to refuse it. Just like on Deva!

One of your readers (issue #5) raised an interesting question regarding the depiction of Frumple as Jewish (at least in his Abdul the Rug Merchant guise). Well, in my opinion there's a world of difference between an archetype and a stereotype. An archetype is an easily identifiable character, like Everyman, like Santa Claus, like Darth Vader, like Winslow. One looks once and says, "Hey, I know that guy/girl/being!" A stereotype is a *derogatory* look at that same character — one recognizes and immediately ridicules a stereotype. It's a fine line between a chortle of amused recognition and a taunting laugh at stupidity, but I think Phil Foglio handles it with aplomb.

Patricia Cryan
New York NY

This time you've gone too phar. I mean, ***Mythadventures*** #5 was truly delightful, a circus of puns, plugs, and perversion (Richard, how's business? And when did you grow horns?!) and, just like the previous phour issues, very, very phunny. But *Elphquest*?! Timmorn's hairballs indeed! And let's not forget Colleen's Alien Plants and Flowers. And now ***Mythadventures*** is afflicted with a deadly outbreak of parthenogenesis (I wonder who the carrier is?). But seriously, just a phriendly word of caution. We, the readers, simply love all the overt references, but let's not turn this into a pharce!

Vince Mora
Albuquerque NM

Business is fine, thank you, even though the competition is stiff. We'll try to reign in Phil on the in-jokes, but don't want to rain on his parade.

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